

**From:** baranmj@cs.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

A good critique of the agreement can be found at <http://davenet.userland.com/2001/11/02/theMicrosoftSettlement>. Please read this in preparation for your deliberations. It disturbs me that many of the Attorneys General (AG s) have not gotten on board with the settlement. While I don't wish to see the case dragged out, Microsoft will not voluntarily submit to cessation of marketing practices that have brought this issue. Those AG s who hold the most radical views on either end of the spectrum should be weeded out, leaving a moderate core, the majority of whom should agree on the settlement. Microsoft cannot be forced to divest itself of Software it has created based on its own research and development. Sufficient remedy seems to be available to those who brought the suit in that bundled middleware (Internet Explorer, media players, etc.) will be replacable at the end user's discretion. This solution doesn't force Microsoft to break its code (a specious argument from my viewpoint as a developer) and allows the consumer to choose a different provider. Microsoft should not be allowed to provide the Windows operating system to the educational community. Their thinly veiled offer gives them inroads into another market segment for which they lust. They should donate hardware and the schools should have the choice of operating system (Red Hat has offered software and support). Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.